Film Festival on Visual Art

from the collection of
Ms. Dorothea Machingal
ANISH KAPOOR
BBC Imagine (2011) – Documentary
(Part 1–6) / 50 mins.

An insight into one of Britain’s most accomplished and popular sculptors. “Charming”, “mystifying”, “over-powering” – the list of adjectives used to describe Anish Kapoor’s installations and public sculptures seems endless. And yet, as varied as the responses to his work are, Kapoor has precise goals in mind for each piece, and his creative outlook, while certainly wide-ranging, is enriched by specific influences and traditions. The film follows the artist as he confers with assistants in his studio and prepares for an exhibition at London’s Royal Academy of Art. Incorporating archival materials that shed light on Kapoor’s youth, education, and early pigment sculptures, the film offers magnificent views of several works.

ANTONY GORMLEY
Contemporary British Art – BBC Documentary – 26 mins.

Antony Gormley is best known for his monumental sculpture Angel of the North. This earth-bound figure with massive wings shares with all of Gormley’s work a preoccupation both with the human form and with our shared spiritual potential. Antony Gormley’s early lead and iron figures were cast from his own body. Some of his sculptures, such as the tiny sleeping figure modeled on his infant daughter, are intensely private. His most significant works are illustrated in this film, including Bed, made from hundreds of loaves of sliced white bread, and the spectacular Quantum Cloud created alongside the Millennium Dome in London. The film offers a rare and personal insight into the influences and creative processes behind the artist’s creations, and provides an accessible means of engaging with the pleasures and puzzles of art in the twenty-first century.
CHRIS OFILI
Contemporary British Art – BBC Documentary – 25 mins.

Chris Ofili created in 2003 the spectacular installation for the British Pavilion at the Venice Biennale. Combining a cycle of paintings depicting lovers in a Paradise-like garden with a shimmering glass dome, Ofili plunged visitors into disorienting spaces of dense colour and enveloping light. This documentary relates Chris Ofili’s reflections on the creative process, complemented by interviews with his collaborator in Venice, the architect David Adjaye, and the structural engineer, who helped realise the complex dome. Also included is an exploration of The Upper Room, an installation of 13 exquisite canvases by Ofili, which was first shown in 2002. The film offers a rare and personal insight into the influences and creative processes behind the artist’s creations, and provides an accessible means of engaging with the pleasures and puzzles of art in the twenty-first century.

WILLIAM TURNBULL
Contemporary British Art – BBC Documentary – 26 mins.

William Turnbull is one of Britain’s most distinguished sculptors and painters. In the late 1940s he studied art in London and then spent time in Paris, and ever since he has rigorously explored a limited number of archetypal forms as well as the fundamentals of art’s languages. Over more than 50 years Turnbull has returned again and again to the head and the mask, to the standing figure and the horse, as well as to possibilities of pared down, often monochromatic painting. His simple objects, which draw on both primitive and classical ideas, often combine presence and poetry in unique ways. This rare interview with the artist was filmed alongside an extensive retrospective exhibition at Yorkshire Sculpture Park. Works in bronze, wood and stone as well as in brightly coloured steel are seen at their very best in both light drenched interiors and in the park’s sweeping landscapes.

THE ART OF ENLIGHTENMENT

The Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, the Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden and the Bayerische Staatsgemäldesammlungen München jointly present a sweeping exhibition of European art from the Enlightenment in conjunction with the National Museum of China. The 3 German museum bodies unveil nearly 600 exhibits, spread over a display area of 2700 m² in the National Museum of China in Beijing. The exhibition features artworks which best exemplify the great ideas of the Enlightenment, its influence on the fine arts and its effective history, from the artistic revolutions of the 18th century right up to the present day.

TREASURES OF THE LOUVRE

Paris-based writer Andrew Hussey travels through the glorious art and surprising history of an extraordinary French institution to show that the story of the Louvre is the story of France. After exploring the masterpieces of painters such as Veronese, Rubens, David, Chardin, Gericault and Delacroix, he examines the changing face of the Louvre itself through its architecture and design. Medieval fortress, Renaissance palace, luxurious home to kings, emperors and more recently civil servants, today it attracts eight million visitors a year. The documentary also reflects the very latest transformation of the Louvre - the museum’s recently-opened Islamic Gallery.
THE ART OF EL GRECO
Toledo, Spain (2009)
Documentary – 03 mins.

Doménikos Theotokópoulos, known as “El Greco,” is considered one of the most important painters in the history of the Western world. His style of painting alternated between the Byzantine style of Crete, where he was born, and the manerism of his later years in Italy and Spain. El Greco, despite embracing the spirit of the Counter Reformation in his paintings, continued to include many elements stemming from Greek Orthodox tradition during his final period in Toledo, Spain. No painter before or since has captured the mystery of the spiritual world like him. Travel Writer Rick Steves visits the Santa Cruz Museum in Toledo, which houses many of El Greco’s 16th century works.

EL GRECO / FEATURE FILM (2007)
Director: Yannis Smaragdis | Greece / Spain | Color | English / Spanish / Greek / Italian with English sublt. | 112 mins.

A biographical film about the Greek painter of the Spanish Renaissance, Domenicos Theotokopoulos, known as El Greco. Based on the Greek novel, The Painter of God, it is the epic tale of an uncompromising artist and fighter for freedom. Born on the island of Crete, circumstances make him move to Venice where he meets the famous painter Titian and Spanish priest Nino de Guevara, who, becomes his enemy due to unrequited homosexual feelings for Domenicos. When finally he travels to Spain and Toledo, in search of freedom and love, he is confronted by the Spanish Holy Inquisition. Nino de Guevara becomes the chief inquisitor in Domenicos’ case. But Domenicos’ creative consciousness and power make him overcome barbarity and ignorance. Awaiting execution by the Spanish Inquisition, he writes out his story, thus parts of his life play out in extended flashbacks.

DAVID BATCHELOLR
Contemporary British Art – BBC Documentary – 26 mins.

David Batchelor’s art is about colour. With lightboxes and everyday plastics, eccentric chandeliers and projections, he brings pure, direct colour into galleries and public spaces. His works are immediately delightful, but also concerned with what colour means in today’s world, and how we experience it. David Batchelor’s art is also about the city. His colours are the bright, sharp hues of neon and artificial materials, not the soft tones of the natural world. In this profile, the artist speaks about many key works and reflects on his distinctive public commissions, including a tower of colour for the Whitehall offices of the Treasury and an illuminated tree by the Thames. These are intellectual works, but they are also fun, pleasurable and beautiful.

DRYDEN GOODWIN
Contemporary British Art – BBC Documentary – 27 mins.

Dryden Goodwin is fascinated with drawing. But the ways in which he explores this age-old practice are anything but traditional. He combines drawing with photography, film and large-scale screen-based installations, engaged with time, line, and the sculptural potential of two-dimensional images. Other concerns in his art are also strongly contemporary: ideas of public and private, voyeurism, emotional distance. Many of Dryden Goodwin’s key works are featured in this profile, including animations like Heathrow (1994) and the 3-screen installation Closer (2002), video footage of strangers in the city whose features the artist traces with a laser pen. He also discusses the ambitious 8-screen Dilate (2003) and his film Flight (2006), presented alongside the thousands of drawings that he made for its production.
GARY HUME
Contemporary British Art – BBC Documentary – 26 mins.

Gary Hume makes beautiful paintings, his materials being household paints on aluminium surfaces, and his subjects, he says, are “flora, fauna and portraits”. The results are elegant, delicate, simple yet elusive and exquisite paintings of subtle tones. Gary Hume reflects on his work from the 1980s, when his Doors series won acclaim, to his latest creations. His new work balances recognisable images with abstraction. His Kate (1996) and Michael (2001) are contemporary icons conjured up from bold shapes and strong planes of colour. Illustrated in this profile are Gary Hume’s most notable paintings, filmed in exhibitions in London and Dublin, and in a 2004 show in Bregenz, Austria. Also featured are the artist’s rarely seen drawings and, in contrasting settings, his deadpan sculpture Snowman.

ANTHONY CARO
Contemporary British Art – BBC Documentary – 29 mins.

Anthony Caro led a revolution in sculpture in Britain in the early 1960s. His abstract steel constructions, painted in bold colours, forged a new and internationally influential sculptural language. In the years since his practice has consistently challenged and extended what sculpture is, and what it might be. Now over 80, Anthony Caro remains intensely active, working each day in his studio and overseeing every detail of an extensive retrospective at Tate. Preparations for the show are featured in this profile, along with many of his major works, filmed in Britain, Germany and the United States. He speaks about the development of his art from the bronze figures of the 1950s through many variations of his work with metals, his hybrids of sculpture and architecture, and his recent large scale, multi-part responses to Old Master painting and the worlds of myth and Christianity.

DOCUMENTA 13 (2 Videos)
Official Documentary – 10 mins. & 06 mins.

Documenta is an exhibition of modern and contemporary art which takes place every five years in Kassel, Germany. It was founded by artist, teacher and curator Arnold Bode in 1955 in an attempt to bring Germany up to speed with modern art, both banishing and repressing the cultural darkness of Nazism. The first documenta featured many artists considered to have had a significant influence on modern art (such as Picasso and Kandinsky). Every documenta is limited to 100 days of exhibition, often called the “museum of 100 days”. 2012’s edition was organized around a central theme, the trans-Atlantic melding of two distinct individuals who first encountered each other in the “money-soaked deserts of the United Arab Emirates”. A few of the works exhibited at various documentas remained as purchases in Kassel museums.

ABOUT THE FILM COLLECTOR

Dorothea Machingal, German national, aged 69, studied library science and law and practiced as librarian and later as advocate. She is married to a Malayali, who worked as a civil engineer in Germany, until both retired from their professions and settled in her husband’s home town Thrissur, Kerala. Book, film and art lovers, the couple has visited numerous museums all over Germany, different European countries and India, collecting books and films about art and artists on their journeys, or friends and relatives bring them along when visiting India. A good number of videos derive from her family members residing in different European countries, where they have access to cultural TV channels like BBC (UK), Arte (France), Mediathek (Germany).
NEVER SORRY - AI WEIWEI
Director: Alison Klayman. Jury prize at the 2012 Sundance Film Festival. Documentary – 91 mins.

The film follows Ai from the time Klayman met him just after his release from detention by Chinese authorities in spring of 2011. It presents him installing his show at the Haus der Kunst in Munich in September 2009 and his 100 million-ceramic porcelain piece at the Tate Modern a year later. ‘Never Sorry’ opens in his studio in Beijing, home to 40 cats, and follows him from the development of his piece where he researched and posted the names of student victims of the May 2008 earthquake in Sichuan. The Sichuan Earthquake Names Project involved more than 50 volunteers and researchers collecting the names of the deceased students. On 12 May 2009, on the first anniversary of the disaster, Ai finishes posting the over 5,000 names. 2 weeks later, Ai’s blog is shut down by Chinese authorities.

RICHARD SERRA - DRAWINGS

The first retrospective exhibition of Richard Serra’s drawings at the Metropolitan Museum of Art traces the crucial role drawing has played in Richard Serra’s work for more than 40 years. Although Serra is known for his large-scale and site-specific sculptures, his work has also changed the practice of drawing. The artist was named a Commander of the order of Arts and Letters of the French Academy in 2008 and was decorated with the order of the Arts and Letters of Spain. In this film, he discusses his work, the Met exhibition and sign copies of his book.

RENAISSANCE REVOLUTION - HIERONYMUS BOSCH (2 of 3)
(2 of 3)
(THE GARDEN OF EARTHLY DELIGHTS 2003)
BBC Documentary – 59 mins.

An excellent look at the life, times and works of Hieronymus Bosch in which his best known paintings are analysed. A fascinating documentary exploring the life and work of the 15th-ct. painter whose imaginative depiction of hell and earthly pleasures have made him one of the world’s best-loved artists. Hieronymus Bosch (1450 - 1516) was a prolific Early Netherlandish painter of the 15th and 16th ct. Many of his works depict sin and human moral failings. Bosch used images of demons, half-human animals and machines to evoke fear and confusion to portray the evil of man. The works contain complex, highly original, imaginative use of symbolic figures and iconography, some of which were obscure even during his time. He is said to have been an inspiration for the surrealist movement in the twentieth century.

REMBRANDT FECIT 1669

Stelling has painstakingly recreated the pathetic end of a genius with an authenticity that allows viewers to infer their own conclusions about the relationship between Rembrandt’s life and art. The film is sheer visual poetry, and absolutely gorgeous, quite reminiscent of Flemish paintings of the 17th century; every kind of substance is filmed with a passion and a love for details. Water dripping on a window pane, dim light reflected by a helmet, the face of a woman sleeping or giving birth here are fascinating, hypnotizing things. Every successive scene without always being closely related, but with beautiful changes of scenery or points of view, gives the film a poetic quality. It is a kind of psychological study, a comment about art and creation, particularly the art of self-portrait – the fascination of Rembrandt for his own face is emphasized all along the movie.
GERHARD RICHTER
Director: Martin Hampton, Tate Modern – 21 mins.

Tate Modern’s Gerhard Richter retrospective groups together significant moments of the artist’s career, which spans almost five decades. Gerhard Richter is one of the world’s most celebrated living artists who turned 80 the same year. Born in Dresden, East Germany, in 1932, Richter migrated to West Germany in 1961, where he held his first solo exhibition in 1963. His entire oeuvre, stretching across more than a half-century of activity, encompasses almost 5000 works including photo-paintings, abstracts, landscapes and seascapes, portraits, glass and mirror works, sculptures, drawings and photographs. Tate director Nicholas Serota meets Richter in his studio in Germany to discuss about his life and work.

TINGUELY MUSEUM, BASEL
Documentary – 09 mins.

Jean Tinguely (22 May 1925 – 30 August 1991) was a Swiss painter and sculptor, best known for his sculptural machines or kinetic art, in the Dada tradition: known officially as metamechanics. Tinguely’s art satirized the mindless overproduction of material goods in advanced industrial society. He belonged to the Parisian avant garde in the mid-20th century and was one of the artists who signed the New Realist’s manifesto (Nouveau réalisme) in 1960. His best-known work, a self-destroying sculpture titled ‘Homage to New York’ (1960), only partially self-destructed at the Museum of Modern Art, New York City. His later work, ‘Study for an End of the World No. 2’ (1962), detonated successfully in front of an audience gathered in the desert outside Las Vegas.

A NEW VAN GOGH DISCOVERY
SUNSET AT MONTMAJOUR AND VAN GOGH AT WORK
Documentaries by Van Gogh Museum Amsterdam / English narration, 6 mins. & 3 mins.

Sunset at Montmajour, a landscape in oils painted by van Gogh in July 1888 while the artist was at Arles, France, depicts a landscape with the ruins of Montmajour Abbey in the background. The painting was on display as part of an exhibition at the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam. After its sale in 1901 there is no record of its ownership. In the 1990s, it was dismissed as not his work because it was not signed. With improved investigative techniques, after detailed investigation by the Museum, it was discovered to have been painted in the same range of paints by van Gogh at that period. Among the evidence for authenticity was a letter written by Vincent van Gogh to his brother Theo on 5 July 1888, describing a landscape that he had painted the previous day. On 9 September 2013, the Van Gogh Museum announced in a public unveiling of the painting that the work indeed was by van Gogh.
**ANSELM KIEFER**
OVER YOUR CITIES GRASS WILL GROW 2010
Director: Sophie Fiennes / France, Netherlands, UK / English / Color / 101 mins.

In 1993 German artist Anselm Kiefer left Germany for La Ribaute, a derelict silk factory in France extending over 35 ha. In 2000 he began constructing a series of elaborate installations there. The film follows Kiefer as he works in the installation complex he has created around his studio in the countryside. It takes us through a mysterious space resembling an archaeological dig. The central part of the film, which shows Kiefer making the work and directing his assistants, reveals that the ageing process is a key part of his practice, involving much digging, breaking and melting of materials. Kiefer describes how he hopes the ageing process will continue as the work is exposed to time and the elements. Final tour of the installations, pulls back to reveal the effect of the work at the level of landscape, with large structures framed against an evening sky.

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**DAVID NASH**
FORCE OF NATURE
BBC Documentary – 59 mins.

David Nash is one of Britain’s most original and internationally recognized sculptors. In a career spanning 40 years he has created over 2,000 sculptures out of wood, many of them monumental in scale. In this film Nash gives an intimate insight into his unique collaboration with his material, and reveals how he uses his profound knowledge of trees and the forces of nature to form his work. The film traces Nash’s artistic journey from art school to the rugged mining landscape of north Wales and his exhibitions around the world, culminating in the Yorkshire Sculpture Park in 2010.

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**FRANCIS BACON**
ARENA
BBC4 Documentary - 95 mins.

Born in Ireland to British parents in 1909, Francis Bacon was an iconoclast who produced some of the 20th century’s most striking paintings. Director Adam Low links his art and life by reviewing his paintings through their connection to his relationships with six different men in six decades of his life. Using a haunting score by Brian Eno, Low takes a largely chronological approach to Bacon’s life and career. The film doesn’t shy away from his faults but ultimately paints a portrait of a hard-living man who was comfortable with his lifestyle and took excess and success in his stride. We experience him as a very charming man, in striking contrast to his paintings. The film explores Bacon’s life and work, from his troubled Edwardian childhood to his death in Madrid in 1992, using rarely seen archival films and images, interviews with friends and relatives; it depicts Bacon’s influences and most of all his torturous, spellbinding pictures.

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**AMRITA SHERGIL**
A FAMILY ALBUM (PART I & II)
Documentary by Navina Sundaram, English narration, 20 mins. & 37 mins.

An account of the life and work of Amrita Sher-Gil, one of India’s most renowned painters, made by her niece, Navina Sundaram. The film was originally produced for the exhibition “Amrita Sher-Gil – a Family of Artists in the 20th Century”, at Haus der Kunst, Munich and Tate Modern, London in 2006. Born 4 years after Sher-Gil’s death, Navina Sundaram gathered information about her aunt through anecdotes told by her mother – Sher-Gil’s sister Indira –, diary entries, newspaper cuttings, letters written by Sher-Gil to her parents, sister Indira, art critic and collector Karl Khandavala and others. While for them these letters are a part of personal history, for others they are a means to understand the artist, an emblematic figure of modernism in India. “She wrote about her work in some letters,” notes Sundaram.
PROGRAMME

1st Day - Morning Session: 11:00 am onwards

2. ANTONY GORMLEY / Contemporary British Art / BBC Documentary / 26 mins.
3. CHRIS OFILI / Contemporary British Art / BBC Documentary / 25 mins.
4. WILLIAM TURNBULL / Contemporary British Art / BBC Documentary – 26 mins.

Afternoon Session: 2:00 pm onwards

4. EL GRECO / Feature Film (2007) / Director: Yannis Smaragdis / 112 mins

2nd Day - Morning Session: 11:00 am onwards

1. DAVID BATELOR / Contemporary British Art / BBC Documentary / 26 mins.
2. DRYDEN GOODWIN / Contemporary British Art / BBC Documentary / 27 mins.
3. GARY HUME / Contemporary British Art / BBC Documentary / 25 mins.
4. ANTHONY CARO / Contemporary British Art / BBC Documentary / 29 mins.
5. DOCUMENTA 13 (2 Videos) / Official Documentary / 10 mins. & 06 mins.

Afternoon Session: 2:00 pm onwards

1. NEVER SORRY - AI WEIWEI (2012) / Documentary / 91 mins.

3rd Day - Morning Session: 11:00 am onwards

1. GERHARD RICHTER / Director: Martin Hampton / Tate Modern / 21 mins.
2. GERHARD RICHTER - Panorama / German Audio / 35 mins.
3. TINQUELY MUSEUM, BASEL / Documentary / 09 mins.
4. A NEW VAN GOGH DISCOVERY / Sunset At Montmajour and Van Gogh At Work Documentaries by Van Gogh Museum Amsterdam / 6 mins. & 3 mins.
5. DAVID NASH / Force of Nature / BBC Documentary / 59 mins.

Afternoon Session: 2:00 pm onwards

1. ANSELM KIEFER / Over Your Cities Grass Will Grow 2010 / Director: Sophie Fiennes / 101 mins.
2. FRANCIS BACON - ARENA / BBC4 Documentary / 95 mins.
3. AMRITA SHERGIL / A Family Album (Part I & II) / Documentary by Navina Sundaram / 57 mins.